

Message Text

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FOR NEA/AFN ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, MO
SUBJ: NEA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES PAPER

REF: BISHOP-ANDERSON LETTER OF MARCH 27, 1978

1. REFLTR TRANSMITTED COPY OF NEA/AFN'S RECOMMENDATION TO ASST SECY SAUNDERS FOR THE LATTER'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES PRESENTATION TO THE SECRETARY AND WELCOMED COMMENTS. I WAS CONCERNED TO SEE THE RECOMMENDATION UNDER PARAGRAPH 3, ON THE SIXTH FLEET, REGARDING JOINT EXERCISES.

2. WE HAVE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS DISCOURAGED THE U.S. NAVY'S DESIRES TO STAGE JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES WITH THEIR MOROCCAN COUNTERPARTS. PROPOSALS FOR SUCH EXERCISES HAVE RANGED FROM STAGED AMPHIBIOUS LANDING EXERCISE IN MOROCCAN (MEDITERRANEAN) WATERS TO JOINT EXERCISES AT SEA. AT A TIME WHEN MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN MILITARY UNITS ARE TENSELY FACED OFF ALL ALONG THEIR COMMON BORDER AND WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY IN THIS REGIONAL DISPUTE, IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE FOR U.S. FORCES TO ENGAGE IN WHAT WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE ALGERIANS TO BE AT WORST PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS AND, AT THE LEAST, POLITICAL GESTURES. I COULD NOT IN ALL CONSCIENCE CONCUR IN

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ANY SUCH EXERCISES.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE U.S. NAVY HAS HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WHEREBY IT HAS TAKEN A SMALL NUMBER OF MOROCCAN NAVAL PERSONNEL FOR EXTENDED TRAINING ABOARD U.S. SHIPS. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM, WHICH IS ONE OF VERY LOW PROFILE, SATISFIES OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING WORKING RELATIONS WITH

THE MOROCCAN NAVY, AND ENCOURAGES GOM RECEPTIVITY TO CONTINUING
U.S. SHIP VISITS.

4. REGARDING OTHER ISSUES, WE ARE NOT SERIOUSLY WORRIED OVER
POSSIBLE MOROCCAN RESENTMENT SHOULD WE MOVE AHEAD WITH THE ALREADY
NEGOTIATED CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA (PARA 2 REFLTR).
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PORTRAY THIS DEVELOPMENT HERE AS PART OF
OUR EFFORTS TO MODERATE ALGERIAN THINKING.

5. REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS (PARA 7), WE BELIEVE LANGUAGE ON
ALGERIA SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO CORRESPOND WITH PAPER ON U.S.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN ALGERIA. LATTER STATES GOAL IS TO
"ENCOURAGE ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF
THE SAHARAN REFUGEES."
ANDERSON

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NNN

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